

Administrative - info and use only

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✓ The possibility of a future high-rise obstruction to the bureau's Penthouse microwave link to the [] receiving site was raised in a 6 April Bangkok POST news item claiming that a deluxe 1,000-room hotel is proposed to be built on Wireless Road diagonally opposite [] house. The probable location indicated in initial news reports would place such a hotel, which would become Bangkok's largest, directly in the path of the FBIS microwave beam. Other local rumors indicate construction activity on a small portion of this land is for townhouses. Early reports said governmental approval to build the \$17.6 million hotel was likely, but given the usual pace of such matters, the threat seems years down the road.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- ✓ 1. A report on the 5-month bureau test evaluation of the Giff Facsimile Recorder for monitoring full-page newspaper facsimile transmissions of Hanoi's party organ NHAN DAN was submitted to the Chief, Operations Group, on 14 April. The evaluation noted technically that the machine is capable of producing usable prints with optimum signals, but a better machine should be sought, and substantively that only very rarely was material available uniquely and in advance of voice from the facsimile cast, and recommended therefore that facsimile coverage be limited to special major events and emergencies, given the high labor input required for what so far has provided mostly infrequent supplemental material.

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PTI / Information*

The SANACHAR news agency saga finally ended on 14 April when, after several postponements, it reverted to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA and three other news agencies from which it was originally formed. The bureau is currently sampling PTI English-language transmissions and will submit a report on its findings and recommendations regarding a possible subscription to the service after 15 May. Very initial impressions are that the PTI reports may be a little more comprehensive and a little faster than SANACHAR.

- ✓ 3. The Jakarta ANTARA English-language press agency began preceding its regular daily transmission with nonaligned news agency "pool" items. With FCS approval, any items processed from this portion of the cast are being sublogged as "pool items".
- ✓ 4. The bureau resumed regular recording of Tashkent Uighur broadcasts for processing by Nicosia Bureau on 16 April after a 3-month hiatus caused by the temporary resignation of Nicosia's contract Uighur monitor.